

Send us your writings, artwork, feedback and rants!

Email: radicalyouth@enzyme.org.nz

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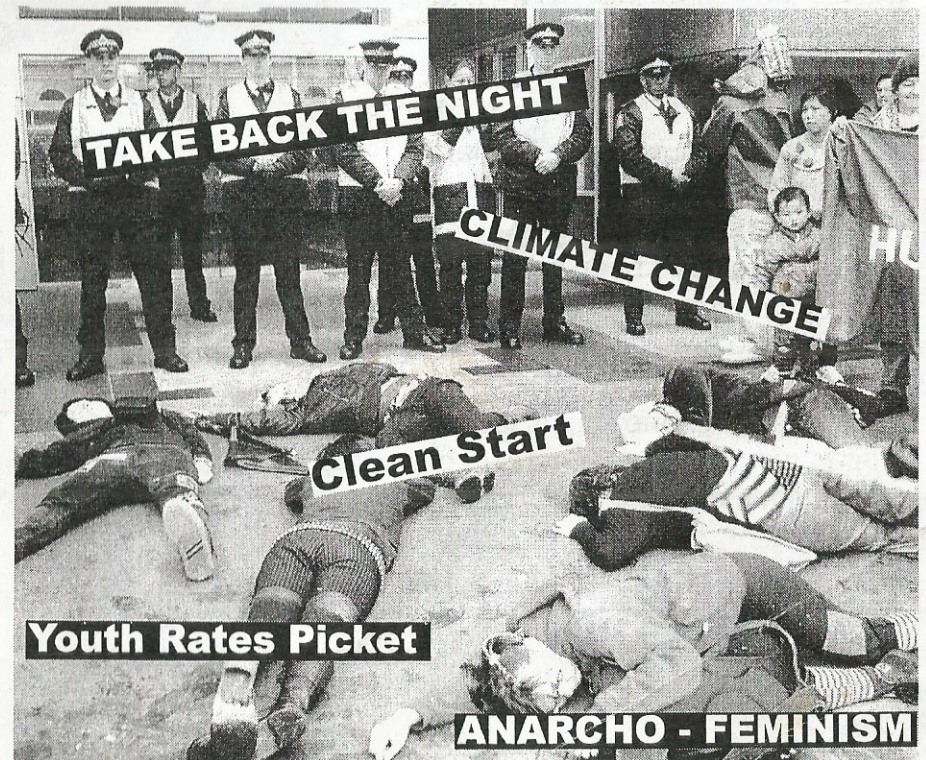
OUTRAGED

YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION!

A Radical Youth Publication # 3

Inside:

www.radicalyouth.org.nz



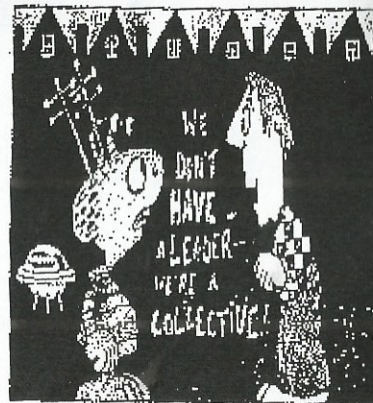
WHO ARE WE

Radical Youth is a diverse group of young people from across Aotearoa who are working for social change. We joined together to create spaces for youth to learn from each other, support each other, organise and live creatively. We are a community of equals, who respect each other and each other's opinion. We originally began with a few Auckland school students who found themselves confronted by a silence all around them. It was the silence of our friends, family, neighbours and communities to poverty, oppression, war, greed, ecological destruction and injustice.

Everywhere, from popular culture to our schools and workplaces, we are told to sit in silence, to consume in silence and to work in silence. Those who live in silence are powerless to prevent injustice. We call out to humanity to listen to those who have been pushed to the corners, herded into prisons, and forced into sweatshops. We ask the youth of Aotearoa to speak up for those who cannot speak and those who no one listens too. The silence of some will deafen the screams of others. The rulers of an unconscious civilisation fear more than anything else the words, 'Another world is possible.'

We don't want you to sign useless petitions or give a monthly donation. We want you to come along to participate in the creation of a world based on peace, liberty, solidarity and equality.

Join us! www.radicalyouth.org.nz



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Upcoming Events



RADICAL YOUTH MEETING

3pm, every Saturday
Trades Hall
147 Great North Road
** no meeting on the 4th of Nov due to Reclaim the Streets (see below).
Everyone is welcome!

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

Stand up against violence towards women!

October 28, at 7pm, in Aotea Square.

Women, children and men welcome.

Stop Climate Change
Reclaim the Streets

The time has come to take to the streets to stop the destruction of our people and the planet!

NOV 4th, 1pm Aotea Sq

For other events and news check out: www.indymedia.org.nz

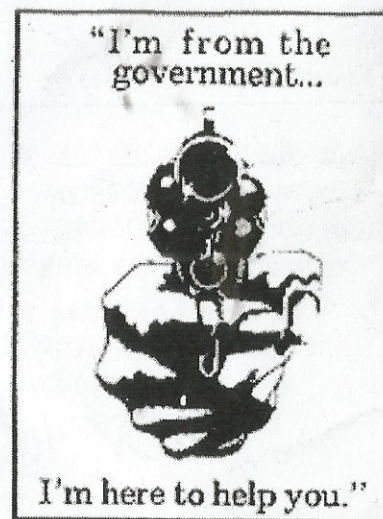
No Justice, No Peace, Arrest the Police

When you're at a party and a paddy wagon pulls up to a party at your friend's house, you know there's going to be trouble. When seven policemen invade your space and violently arrest someone for swearing at them, you want to stop them. When your friend who was filming the violence gets arrested as well, you want to fight back.

When all of this happens because we live in a society that grants the police so much power, when you know they're just doing it because we're young and they want to teach us not to mess with them, when they brutally beat down peaceful people, when this kind of shit happens all the time to young people, to ethnic minorities, to homeless people and activists, you start to question if there's any legitimacy or justification for the existence of the police force.

You never see cops arresting the real culprits who destroy and violently disempower communities. You never see them arrest businessmen in suits who try to make killing technologies more profitable and efficient. You never seen them violently beat down the rich or the powerful because those are the people they work for. They're not there to protect our rights. They laugh in your face if you claim you know your rights. They are there to protect the established system. "The function of the police is protection of property and social control." (Michael Parenti) That's why they target those who don't conform to society's standards and those who are oppressed by the capitalist system. It's easy for them to do that. They can get away with it.

When I talk to my friends about the police, a lot of them are either afraid of the police or they hate them with a passion. They see cops as their enemies. It's not always because we've done something wrong, it's the amount of power and authority



they have over us. They can kick us, beat us, smash our heads against the wall, push us into the ground, choke us, taser us, pepper spray us, and if we fight back, we're the ones charged with assault. If we do the same to them, they can fight back without being charged with assault because they're given that power. They can deny you your human rights and get away with it. We have no way of legally defending ourselves. That is what makes us afraid. When it's the cops that are endangering us, who is going to stop it?

Movements like the Polynesian Panthers had ways of dealing with police violence in their neighbourhoods. During the dawn raids by cops to bust overstayers, the Polynesian Panthers staged their own dawn raid at the homes of policemen involved in the dawn raids. In the US, the Black Panther Party back in the early 70s set up neighbourhood patrols to combat police violence and racism by following police around and intervening whenever there was police misconduct. Their tactics have influenced organisations like Cop watch, which was set up to "police the police". They use cameras and notebooks to monitor and expose police violence in the community. "Cop watchers" would go out in their neighbourhoods to film police interaction with civilians and hold community forums to make people aware of their rights with the police.

Power in this world is extremely concentrated. The cops are there to protect this structure of social organization, which puts property and profit before people and planet. Even though a handful of individual cops can be nice, and they might be doing it for the right reasons, they still have to take orders from above. They're not taught to have a conscience or 'do the right thing' they're taught to obey and follow orders to teach us to obey and follow orders.



YOUTH RATES PICKET AGAINST LABOUR

Monday, September 25, 2006

A picket was held on today calling for labour to support sue bradford's bill to get rid of youth rates. The picket was a response to a long silence by the labour party and a failure for the so called "workers party" to take a strong stand for young workers. Someone had told the labour party the picket was planned so when we got there the office was locked up, in response messages were left in chalk for the staff to read and pass on in the morning. The picket gained a high level of support from passing motorists and public who were leafleted. This action calling on labour to support workers rights was seen by thousands of people in rush hour traffic and comes at a time when labour are already under the spotlight. Police were noticeably absent and may have been told not to make a scene out of the protest. Actions calling for labour to abolish youth rates are planned in future as the date for voting on sue bradford's bill draws nearer. There was a good cross union presence at the picket with solidarity and unite present as well as various union members. This is a fight for all young workers and labour will be targeted until they state their support for the abolishment of youth rates.



From www.aucklandsburning.blogspot.com

THE END IS NIGH: PEAK OIL, CLIMATE CHAOS AND THE MODERN DAY APOCALYPSE

From the Book of Revelation to Mad Max, Western culture is obsessed with the idea of the apocalypse, the end of the world. It used to be that a madman would come in from the forest one day and rouse the peasants to revolt with a tale of the end times, of the Anti-Christ and the final battle. Today, we have respectable scientists and world leaders talking of climate change, peak oil and the biggest extinction crisis the Earth has ever known. Unfortunately, such people often talk in terms difficult for simple folk like you and me to understand. So here it is: the end of the world for beginners, a no-holds barred guide to the changes that WILL impact YOUR life.

Peak oil

If you have a car, you have probably noticed the price of petrol steadily climbing. While this is a growing inconvenience at the moment, in the future the simple fact of rising oil costs will probably force drastic changes in the way our society runs. The theory of peak oil is extremely simple and based on a few common-sense observations. Oil is a finite resource; nobody can dispute that it will run out someday. A growing world population and a growing industrial economy inevitably needs more and more oil to run. Nobody can dispute that either. Any student of economics will be able to fill in the rest. We keep demanding more oil as the oil is running out...the price of oil skyrockets. For a civilization utterly dependent on oil, this is not good news.

The important thing about the peak oil theory is that the effects of oil depletion come not when the oil runs out but **when demand begins to outstrip supply**. This is where the term 'peak oil' comes from – the point at which 50% of our oil reserves have been used and we enter the period of 'energy descent'. This is when our economies stop growing and start slowing down, or crash as some would put it.

Currently, the world consumes a massive **1000 barrels of oil per second**. Look around yourself right now and you will be hard pressed to see a human-made object that was not utterly dependent on oil for its manufacture, from aspirin and most other medicines to pens, plastics to fertilizer, panty hose to nail polish, diapers, computers and toothpaste. Those items not made using oil are dependent on oil for transport. Not to mention the fact that modern food production requires about 10 calories of fossil fuels to produce 1 calorie of food. Take a deep breath, a moment to digest what this means. The way of life you are accustomed to will not last forever. Most peak oil analysts predict massive social unrest, global wars over dwindling resources and mass starvation in the years ahead. Some would say we are already experiencing it, citing the war in Iraq as an example. Many experts believe the world has already peaked in oil production, those who

disagree with this think we will within the next 20 years. These people are not crank conspiracy theorists; they are petroleum geologists, food analysts and politicians. Even ex-president Bill Clinton has jumped on the peak oil bandwagon.

Climate change

To make matters worse, our industrial civilization's taste for oil is causing rapid change to the Earth's climate. As greenhouse gases such as methane and carbon dioxide build up, heat is trapped and the Earth begins to warm. Greenhouse gas concentrations are the highest they have been for at least 420,000 years. Once again, I didn't get that fact from a crank – I found it on a New Zealand government website. 2005 was the warmest year on record. If you want to know about climate change, my advice is to check the bottom of page 3 of the 'World' section of the New Zealand Herald everyday. Hidden away there every week is a new scientific finding that confirms my belief that we are in very, very deep trouble indeed.

The latest news on the climate change front is particularly scary. The new consensus among scientists seems to be that there is absolutely no way we can predict how bad it will get and that change will come in big jumps, not gradually. The scariest thing to come out of science lately is not Frankenstein sheep but this little tidbit of information – underneath the Arctic is a time-bomb that could spell the end of all life on our planet. Let me explain. Beneath the Arctic tundra are ice formations known as clathrates that contain massive amounts of methane and carbon dioxide. In fact, these formations contain 3000 times the amount of methane as is in the atmosphere. Methane is 20 times worse than carbon dioxide in its effect on global warming. With global warming

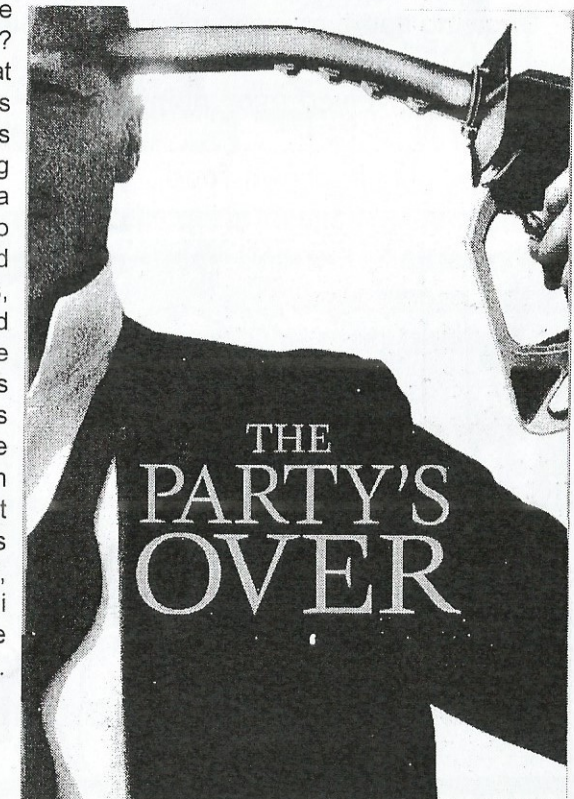


proceeding at the rate it is, it is not unlikely these deposits will begin to melt. In fact, they have already begun leaking carbon dioxide. Last time these deposits released methane into the atmosphere, 251 million years ago, 95% of marine animals disappeared from the fossil record. But then, we are already in the middle of the largest extinction crisis the Earth has faced since the extinction of the dinosaurs!

The typical image of climate change is rising sea levels and on this count too, science has recently delivered some disturbing revelations. Jim Hansen, a NASA scientist, believes that within a few years, the pace of sea level rise will increase at least ten times. This is because whereas 5 years ago scientists thought it would take 10,000 years for an ice-shelf to melt, the new figure could be as fast as 10 seconds. Might be time to dust off the 'end is nigh' signs after all?

I'd like to be able to end this article with a phrase something along the lines of 'But don't worry about all this, it will be ok, technology will save us, the scientists could be wrong'. But I can't. I am not prepared to lie to my reader. Even if climate change is an elaborate hoax on the part of environmentalists trying to seize absolute power for Nandor, we still have the physical fact that the life-blood of our society, oil, is going to run out. So what can you do? If you don't believe what I have been telling you, check out the facts for yourself. I am confident you will then be as scared as I am.

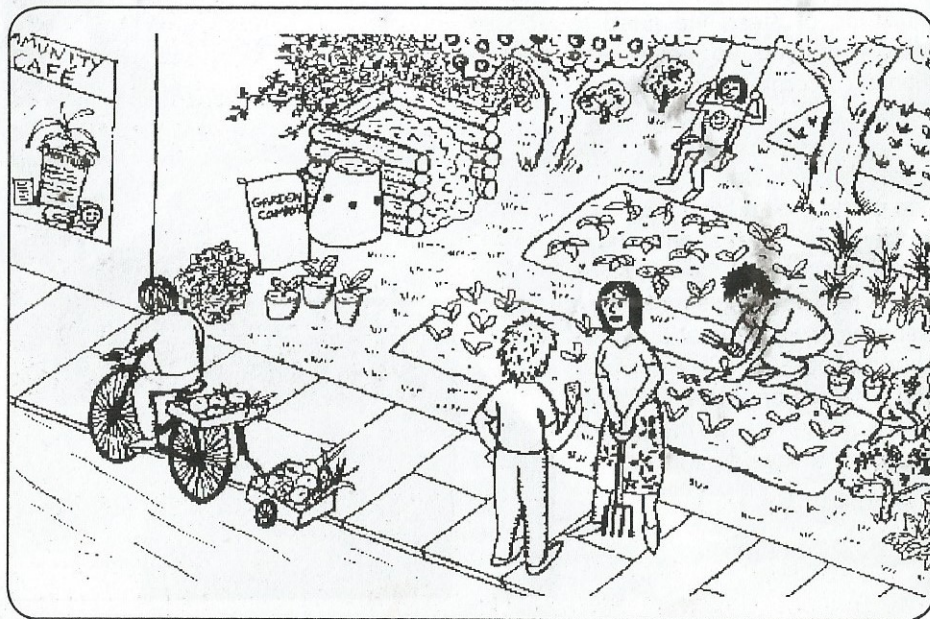
So what to do about these grave threats facing humanity? This is a collective problem that requires collective solutions – talking to our friends, families and neighbours about becoming self-sustainable. There are a multitude of steps we need to take – digging up lawns and planting community gardens, eating locally and moving round without using fossil fuels. The reality is that New Zealand is one of the best placed countries in the world to deal with these problems but our generation needs to start living simply. Next issue, we'll talk more about us as young people, what went wrong, and what we can do. As Ghandi once said "we must be the change we want to see in this world".



Community Change not Climate Change

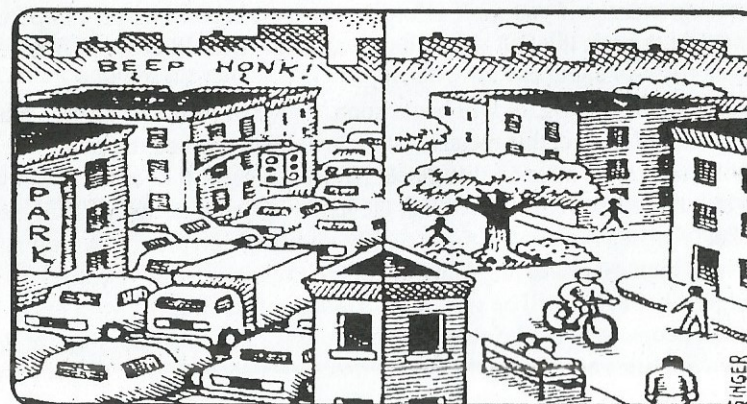
Things you can do today:

- Using public transport rather than owning a car.
- Learning who your neighbors are.
- Learning skills such as making your own clothing, growing your own food and teach them to others.
- Get involved with other people that want to change thing: give us an email :)
- Growing some of your own food - Digging up the lawn.
- Getting involved in or helping start a community garden.
- Eating locally grown food.



CLIMACTION presents

CARNIVAL AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE



A carnival against climate change is planned in the centre of Aotearoa's economic capital. The carnival will go on for several hours. Please bring banners, children, friends, games, music, a picnic, artistic expression and come ready to dance!

Sat Nov 4, 1pm AOTEA SQUARE

www.climaction.blogspot.com

System Change NOT Climate Change

PUBLIC TRANSPORT OR CORPORATE TRANSPORT?

Public Transport sounds boring and lame. It just gets us from A to B, where we are, to where we need to be. Next.

But that's the point, it gets us from where we are, to where we need to be. Whether you're a student, a worker, unemployed or a superannuitant (retired people), it is an essential part of our daily lives. If you don't make it to school or work on time, or even more importantly, if you can't afford it, transport becomes a very important issue. And then there is the link with Climate Change. But I'll come back to that.

We are currently beginning, or will begin soon, a time of Peak Oil. As you may have heard or read before, this means that we will have reached the point where half the oil reserves we have on this planet have been used. It does not mean we have run out, there is still heaps left. But the half-way point is crucial, as it means "the market" realises there is a limited supply. At this point, there is no way of knowing how high oil prices are going to go, but the majority of scientists and energy experts believe it will be very high. This means that, along with many other effects, most people will not be able to afford to drive their cars the way we do today. Many families are already having to make decisions about whether to buy all the food they need, or the petrol to get to work.

This means that, for many of us, public transport is a really essential part of our lives, and will become even more so. Students will need it to get to school and university, workers will need it to get to their jobs (often having to travel quite long distances, making cars even less of an option for many) and so will everyone else who can't afford to spend hundreds of dollars on petrol. And so we come to the state of things (excuse the pun, because it ain't the state, but corporations).

Public Transport, despite the name, is run here in Aotearoa by private companies Christchurch being an exception. New Zealand and overseas owned. Companies run the service, supported by and often subsidised (given money), by the councils and government. The service is ok, but it is often overcrowded, infrequent, unreliable, slow and expensive. Now most people want to go hitting the Government up for more money to fund improvements, and I can understand why. We always want to blame the government.

But let's go back a moment. These private companies run our trains and buses and so on, and make quite a lot of money doing it (Stagecoach made \$148 million dollars last year). But I thought you said this was an essential public service, like

health and education, I hear you ask? A service that we need just to get to work and school and get things done? Indeed. And yet we have big corporations (and often only one, a monopoly, which makes it even worse), making quite a lot of cash out of the people in our community, and providing a slow, unreliable, expensive service. So what gives?

Well, this thing is privately run; they're not doing it to make friends or serve the community. But is that ok?

Many of us don't think so. We think public transport is a really essential part of our lives, and is going to become even more so as Peak Oil and Climate Change become even more serious. You've probably heard things about Climate Change recently, but it can often feel quite abstract and overwhelming. Well, emissions from cars are a significant contributor to Climate Change, and getting a really good public transport system run by, and for, the people is a tangible step we can make towards stopping Climate Change.

So, what you gonna do? It certainly seems easier for us to just keep asking the government for more money to make the system better. Maybe one day it will actually start to happen. But many of us do not believe that a private company should be running something that is so important to our day to day lives, and be making heaps of money off us while doing it.

Most of us would be outraged if a private company was running our health or education systems, making huge amounts of profit off us, and a good quality service being a distant priority behind money. So why are we not outraged about our public transport being run by money-hungry, private companies? Well, we are.

Auckland public transport used to be run and owned by the council until the early 1990s, when they sold it to a foreign company, Stagecoach. Though the service was not much better than it is now, at least the profits were going back to the community. Auckland's transport is slow and never goes where you want, but it doesn't have to be this way. Christchurch is an example. Their public transport goes all over the city, is cheap and comes regularly. I then found out it's run by the council and shows that public transport can be run as a public good.

We think that it is time to stand-up for what is right, to have a public transport system run by and for the people, with reliable, frequent, fast service being the first priority, at no or very low cost to the community. And if any profits do come from our public transport system, they should go back to the community (where the money came from in the first place), to make it an even better service, and to go to things that matter; food, clothing, housing, education and health for our people. We have had more than enough of money being taken, by private companies, from the people in our community who need it, and given to the richest people in our world. Public transport is one of the first steps in this change to how our world is run.

We are still not sure how it should be run in the future. And nor should a small group of us be deciding. Big change, in our community and our world, should be discussed and decided by the communities and people that it will affect. Change should not be imposed from above. But one possibility is that public transport should be initially taken over by the government, and be devolved, in the future, down to local community groups that can make decisions that are best for them.

This probably sounds quite far off, but then when we think about Climate Change and the many people in our society who are now struggling to afford petrol, the time to start changing, together, is now. We are launching a "Reclaim Public Transport – For People and Planet, Not Profit". Get involved with us, and/or your local community. Talk to your friends, and get in touch to find out more, or for a Free Public Transport bus and train card.

We will pay for the profits of big companies no longer!

NB. Radical Youth will be doing direct action to raise awareness about, and change our public transport system to one run by and for the community, not by and for big companies and big profits. For more info, and to be involved in our campaign, email 'radicalyouth@enzyme.org.nz'. We can do this, together, but we need your help!



what is anarcho - feminism?

Anarcho-feminism is a movement towards women's liberation based on anarchist principles. Anarcho-feminists believe that women's liberation means liberation of **all** women. Having a small minority of women in positions of power, such as the Prime Minister and the Governor General, does not guarantee a better deal for the majority of New Zealand women. For example having a woman minister of immigration did not stop the Government from deporting a sixteen year old incest survivor back to a country where her life is in danger. Throughout history governments and states have been responsible for some of the worst atrocities against women. This is why anarcho-feminists see the state as an extension of patriarchy.

The best way to secure liberation for all women is to eliminate authority and hierarchies whenever possible, including the Government. That's why we believe in anarchy as a way of structuring our societies. By anarchy we mean a system of direct democracy, without rulers or leaders, but based on principles of self-determination and mutual aid.

We also believe that it is important to recognise the links between different kinds of oppression. In order to fight the oppression and exploitation of women we must fight the oppression of all people, whether because of gender, class, ethnicity, sexuality or disability and we must fight the exploitation of animals and the earth.

Because we challenge all authority we advocate direct action as the best means of change. This means fixing problems directly and doing things ourselves rather than appealing to an authority to fix things, for example by writing letters to an M.P. or boycotting a company's products. Direct action can be anything from making your own menstrual pads or publishing your own zine to graffitiing sexist billboards or helping to organise womens workers unions.

Glossary

Hierarchy: tiny amount of the population holding most of the power and wealth in the world.

Patriarchy: male run society.

TAKE BACK



THE NIGHT

MARCH
AND
RALLY

**STAND UP AGAINST
VIOLENCE TOWARDS
WOMEN!**

In New Zealand, One woman is
killed by her partner or
ex-partner every five weeks.

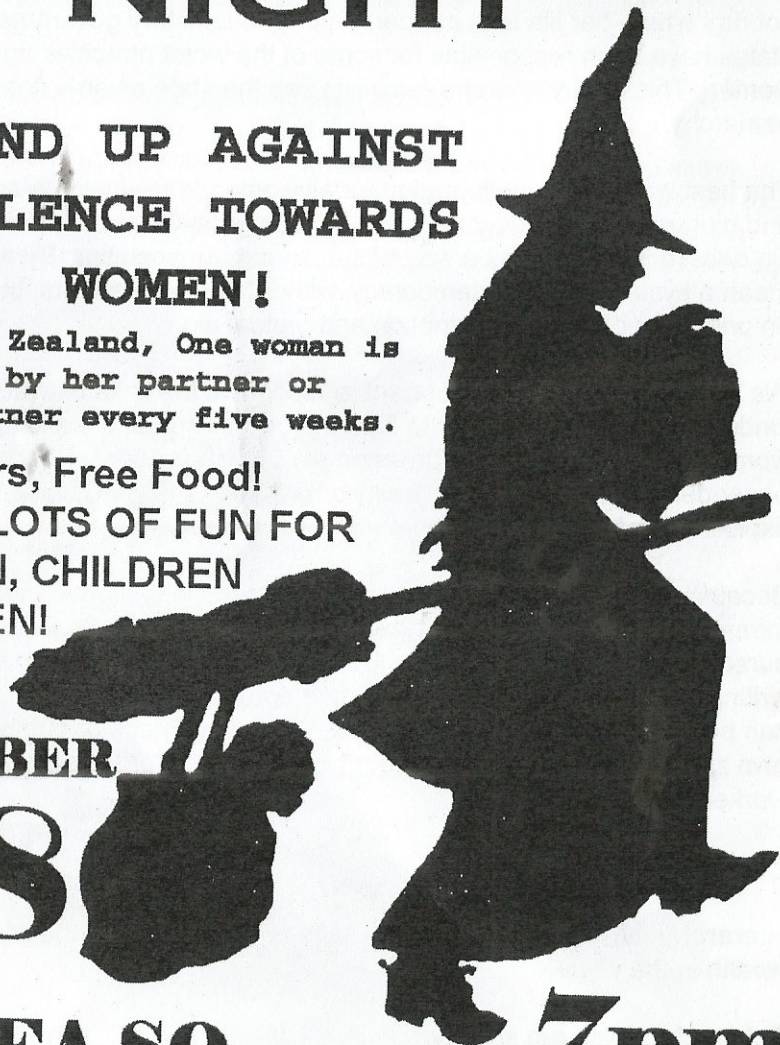
Speakers, Free Food!
Raffle, LOTS OF FUN FOR
WOMEN, CHILDREN
AND MEN!

OCTOBER

28

AOTEA SQ.

7pm



Take Back the Night (also known as Reclaim the Night) is an international event opposed to Sexual and Domestic violence against womyn, originated by the radical feminist movement. Womyn are often told to be extra careful and take precautions when going out at night. In some parts of the world, even today, womyn are not allowed out at night. So when womyn fight for freedom, we must start at the beginning by demanding freedom of movement, which we have not had and do not now have. We must recognize that freedom of movement is a precondition for anything else. It comes before freedom of speech, because without it freedom of speech cannot in fact exist.

AAFS (Auckland Anarcha Feminist Syndicate) have organized a **TAKE BACK THE NIGHT** on October 28, at 7pm, in Aotea Square. We are hosting the event around Halloween, to emphasize the persecution of womyn throughout time. A witch theme is being incorporated into the event as a symbolic gesture of standing against the oppressive persecution of Womyn healers and Natural Midwifery.

There will be a rally, march and gender workshops for both Womyn and Men.

AAFS has organized a Social gathering for the womyn, to build strength and solidarity, along with discussions of future projects. A symbolic music and dance circle will be hosted in Myers Park, so please bring along any musical instruments.

Auckland Pro-Feminist Mens group will be hosting a discussion based workshop raising awareness to gender of political issues. They have compiled a zine which they will be distributing at the workshop.

Free food is going to be distributed at the Rally.
We hope to see you there!



This an international campaign to improve the pay and conditions of cleaners.

These workers are on little more than minimum wage yet they work at terrible hours such as early in the morning or late at night when most of us are relaxing or sleeping. Buildings could not run without someone to clean them. Cleaning is an undesirable job that is not respected. Cleaning is hard work, for bad pay, at terrible hours.

Over time the building owners have been trying to make cleaners do as much work as in the past but in less time to save themselves money. But the fact is that building owners making mutli-million dollar profits from the rents in their buildings can more than afford to pay the cleaners a better wage.

Because most cleaning jobs are not full time, cleaners must take on many jobs. This means many problems for the average cleaner: their many jobs do not add up to full time hours and much of their pay is taken up with travelling from one job to another.

Many cleaners are parents, yet because of the late hours they're not able to be at home with their kids after school helping with their homework or just taking care of them and on \$10.95 an hour you can't

afford a babysitter.

- **Workers who are in a union get \$10.95 ph. Workers who are not in a union get less than this sometimes getting the minimum wage of \$10.25.**
- **Nearly 50% of all cleaners have dependant children living at home.**
- **It doesn't take any language skills which is the reason mostly immigrants are cleaners.**
- **In New Zealand well over 12,000 people are cleaners.**
- **Women make up at least 60% of cleaners.**

'I think it's disgusting that millions and millions of dollars are spent on the marble floor in the foyer of a city building, and yet the cleaners are paid a pittance to clean it – Kirsty McCully, Clean Start organiser.

In New Zealand, Clean Start is a SFWU (Service and Food Workers Union) campaign. They have decided to begin by focusing on the central business districts in Auckland

and Wellington. This is easier to organise because all the buildings are close together as opposed to most cleaners' worksites, which are spread out through the city, but the campaign will be extended out to those areas.

The campaign is focused on cleaners standing up together, being united, being proud of their job and themselves. Most of all it's about cleaners taking action and taking control of their lives.

Cleaners are being ripped off by their employers and their industry. We all need to get behind their campaign to change their industry so they can have decent jobs and a living wage.

What can we do?

Go to the cleaners actions

– check the SFWU website for info www.sfwu.org.nz, or email kirsty.mccully@sfwu.org.nz to go on the email list for action updates.

Send the cleaners a message of support.

If you meet cleaners at school, uni or in town tell them that you support the campaign.

If they're not in the union, suggest that they join.

Join a union yourself.

5 reasons why you should join a union

1. **Access to legal help if you are treated unfairly at work** – employers often exploit young people because we are younger and therefore might not know what should be going on. The union has lawyers that can help you out if this happens.
2. **More union members can mean a better wage** – unions often fight for better wages for workers, higher union membership makes it an easier fight.
3. **On-the-spot-advice** – if you are feeling treated badly at work for any reason, your union is just a phone call away.
4. **You are less likely to be treated badly by your boss, just because you have joined** – when a boss knows that the union is active in his/her workplace, they get scared and won't try to mess you round.
5. **You strengthen the movement** – when more and more people join unions, workers everywhere benefit.